

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/777,661

Examiner

Justin R Fischer

Applicant(s)

TSURUTA, MAKOTO

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2 February 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 8-14 (renumbered 1-12).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20040224.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy Cremen on February 24, 2004.

In the claims:

Claims 12 and 14 are rewritten as follows:

12. A pneumatic tire comprising
a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions,
a belt arranged on an outside of the carcass in a radial direction and
comprised of at least two belt layers containing many reinforcing cords inclined with
respect to an equatorial plane of the tire, the cords of which layers being crossed with
each other,
a belt reinforcement arranged on an inside of the belt in the radial direction and
comprised of at least one belt reinforcing layer embedded with reinforcing elements
extending in a circumferential direction,
and a tread rubber arranged on outsides of the belt and the belt reinforcement in
the radial direction, in which a widthwise outer end of a widest-width belt reinforcing

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layer is arranged outward from a widthwise outer end of a widest-width belt layer among the belt layers, and

a restraining rubber having a JIS hardness not less than a JIS hardness of a coating rubber for the widest-width belt reinforcing layer is arranged outward from the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer at least in a direction directly adjacent to the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer in an axial direction, wherein:

the restraining rubber has a width of not less than 4 mm from the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer and the restraining rubber JIS hardness is not less than 65 degrees but not more than 80 degrees ; and

[when the JIS hardness of the restraining rubber is not less than 65 degrees but not more than 80 degrees,] the restraining rubber is passed over an outside of the widthwise outer end part of the belt reinforcement in the radial direction and extended inward in the widthwise direction up to a zone between the belt reinforcement and a widthwise outer end part of a widest-width belt layer.

14. A pneumatic tire comprising

a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions,

a belt arranged on an outside of the carcass in a radial direction and comprised of at least two belt layers containing many reinforcing cords inclined with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire, the cords of which layers being crossed with each other,

a belt reinforcement arranged on an inside of the belt in the radial direction and comprised of at least one belt reinforcing layer embedded with reinforcing elements extending in a circumferential direction,

and a tread rubber arranged on outsides of the belt and the belt reinforcement in the radial direction, in which a widthwise outer end of a widest-width belt reinforcing layer is arranged outward from a widthwise outer end of a widest-width belt layer among the belt layers, and

a restraining rubber having a JIS hardness not less than a JIS hardness of a coating rubber for the widest-width belt reinforcing layer is arranged outward from the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer at least in a direction directly adjacent to the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer in an axial direction, wherein:

the restraining rubber has a width of not less than 4 mm from the widthwise outer end of the widest-width belt reinforcing layer and the restraining rubber JIS hardness exceeds 85 degrees ; and

[when the JIS hardness of the restraining rubber exceeds 85 degrees,] a rubber layer having a JIS hardness smaller than that of a coating rubber for the carcass is interposed between the carcass and the restraining rubber.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 (renumbered 1-12) are allowed. The reasons for allowance have been previously set forth in Paper Number 8, Paragraph 6. In particular, the prior art references of record failed to suggest, disclose, or teach the unique construction and placement of a restraining rubber (as defined by the claimed invention) in a tire construction having a carcass, a tread, and a belt assembly formed of at least two belt layers and at least one, radially innermost belt reinforcement layer (zero degree layer).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Justin R Fischer** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1215**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.




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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Justin Fischer

February 24, 2004


JEFF H. AFTERGUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300